

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO97/37328 (“Ouimet”) in view of WO98/04080 (“Zeitman”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites that “*upon request of a monitoring agent,*” the parking the ticket machine supplies parking authorization control elements with parking information. Specifically, in the present invention, when asked by a monitoring agent, the ticket machine provides a parking authorization control list indicating the identification information of the parked vehicle and information concerning the parking time. Thus, an update of the information present in the ticket machine can be made periodically when requested by the monitoring agent (see, *e.g.*, page 7 lines 20-28 of the specification).

The monitoring agent is a *human being* who is in charge of checking whether a car has authorization to park at a parking place. This can be clearly deduced from the language in the specification, *i.e.*, “monitoring is carried out by a monitoring agent equipped with portable devices enabling them to consult the parking server via telephone link” (*See Specification*, page 1, line 31 – page 2, lines 4). In addition, page 5, line 30 – page 6, lines 1 recites “The ticket 11

indicating the period and start time of parking is placed visible inside the vehicle so as to enable it to be *visually monitored by the monitoring agents.*”

The Examiner asserts that a monitoring agent as recited in the claimed invention is equivalent to a system/software of Ouimet. Specifically, the Examiner states that “when the parking payment system of Ouimet was initially installed or put into use, a standing request (initial request) had to have been put into the system/software so that the system knows to continuously transmit data. The system of Ouimet contains a standing request for data so that when a ticket machine is used to pay for parking, that data is automatically sent out over the network without having to be requested a second time” (See Office Action mailed February 17, 2005, page 4). As described above, the monitoring agent of the claimed invention cannot possibly be interpreted to be software/hardware responsible for detecting a new purchase for parking. Thus, it is clear that the Examiner has incorrectly construed the term “monitoring agent” to mean something other than a human being, whereas the claimed invention clearly indicates that the monitoring agent is a human being.

Thus, it is clear that Ouimet fails to disclose or suggest a monitoring agent responsible for updating the information present in the ticket machine periodically, as required by claim 1 of the present invention. Further, Zeitman fails to supply that which Ouimet lacks. Specifically, Zeitman discloses that pertinent information is sent from a central interface unit to law enforcement interface unit (see, *e.g.*, Figure 1 and page 6, lines 23-25 of Zeitman), but Zeitman is completely silent regarding information sent upon request of a monitoring agent.

Thus, it is clear from the above that Ouimet and Zeitman, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render claim 1 obvious. Dependent claims 2 and 4-17 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

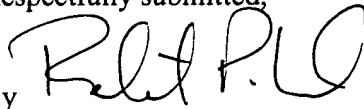
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09667/002001).

Dated: May 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By



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